

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 - 21, 26, 28 and 29 are now in the case. Claims 7 - 10, 12, 15, 22 - 25, 27 and 30 are withdrawn. Claim 1 is an independent claim directed to a method, with Claims 2 - 6, 11, 13 and 14 depending either mediately or immediately therefrom. Claim 16 is the second of the two independent claims in the case and is directed to a blank, Claims 17 - 21, 26, 28 and 29 depending either mediately or immediately therefrom.

Claim 1 has been substantially amended and recites a combination of method steps not taught or suggested by the art of record, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 1 (currently amended) recites a method for forming a closed, multi-panel container having a container top, a container bottom and four continuous sides integrally connected together to form an enclosed hollow interior for receiving one or more objects.

The claim recites the step of forming substantially quadrilateral, integral blank of sheet material having four blank outer edges, four blank corners and four blank quadrants, at least two of the quadrants being of the same size and configuration.

The claim recites that the blank quadrants meet at a location on the blank spaced inwardly from the four blank sides and substantially centered on the blank, the four blank quadrants defined by the four blank outer edges and by two intersecting imaginary straight lines disposed at right angles to one another and extending completely across the blank between opposed blank outer edges thereof through said location. In each blank quadrant, the claim recites the step of creating a double-ended first fold line and a double-ended second fold line, both the ends of the first fold line being interconnected to the ends of the second fold line in each blank quadrant and the first and second fold lines in each blank quadrant being spaced from one another between the connected ends thereof to define a side panel disposed completely within the blank quadrant. The claim further states that the first and second fold lines in each blank quadrant are disposed on opposed sides of an imaginary diagonal line extending across the blank quadrant between opposed junctures formed by adjoining blank outer edges at the blank quadrant boundary where the two intersecting imaginary straight lines meet said adjoining blank outer edges.

The claim states that both ends of the first and second fold lines interconnect at the diagonal line.

It is set forth that the side panels of the blank at least partially surround define a bottom panel of either substantially quadrilateral or substantially cruciform configuration, the side panel and the adjoining blank outer edges of each quadrant defining a generally triangular-shaped top panel having a distal top panel and comprising one of the blank corners.

Claim 1 (currently amended) also recites the step of folding the integral blank along all of the first fold lines located in all four quadrants thereof whereby the side panels extend upwardly from the blank bottom panel and whereby the blank bottom panel forms the container bottom and whereby the side panels form the container sides.

The claim also recites the step of folding the integral blank along all of the second fold lines located in all four quadrants thereof whereby the generally triangular-shaped top panels extend inwardly from the side panels over the container bottom to enclose the hollow interior and form the container top, with the container top and the container bottom being in substantial registry.

The steps recited in detail above are not taught or suggested by either Chadwick, II, the two cited Beutler design patents, or Kuhn et al. Chadwick, II discloses non-integral curvilinear polyhedral construction kits utilized to manually assemble a variety of decorative craft structures, in all of the structures, the shape is a curvilinear faced polyhedron all surfaces of which are arcuate and formed from lobes of various numbers and arrangements which are overlapped and glued together to provide the desired craft construction. Such arrangements are completely unsuitable as containers and certainly do not at all lend themselves to manufacture and assembly other than by hand.

According to applicant's specifically claimed method as set forth in Claim 1 (currently amended), on the other hand, a variety of container shapes may be manufactured and assembled by machine utilizing the recited method steps. Chadwick, II does not teach a method utilizing a substantially quadrilateral, integral blank of sheet material having four blank outer edges, four blank corners and four blank quadrants, at least two of the quadrants being of the same size and configuration.

Nor does Chadwick, II teach any semblance of a method of forming a closed, multi-panel container wherein the blank

quadrants meet at a location on the blank spaced inwardly from the four blank sides and substantially centered on the blank. Nor does Chadwick, II suggest formation of a substantially quadrilateral, integral blank of sheet material wherein four blank quadrants are defined by the four blank outer edges and by two intersecting imaginary straight lines disposed at right angles to one another and extending completely across the blank between opposed blank outer edges thereof through said location.

Chadwick, II does not suggest the step of creating double-ended first and second fold lines of the type and character set forth in Claim 1 (currently amended) in each blank quadrant, both the ends of the recited first fold line being interconnected to the ends of the second fold line and spaced from one another between the connected ends thereof to define a side panel disposed completely within the blank quadrant, the first and second fold lines in each blank quadrant being disposed on opposed sides of an imaginary diagonal line extending across the blank quadrant between opposed junctures formed by adjoining blank outer edges at the blank quadrant boundary where said two intersecting imaginary straight lines meet the adjoining blank outer edges. Importantly, both ends of the first and second fold lines interconnect at the diagonal

line.

It is also stated that the first and second fold lines are such as to form side panels at least partially surrounding and defining a bottom panel of either substantially quadrilateral or substantially cruciform configuration, the side panel and the adjoining blank outer edges of each quadrant defining a generally triangular-shaped top panel having a distal top panel end comprising one of the blank corners.

There is no teaching or suggestion whatsoever in Chadwick, II of the step of folding the integral blank along all of the first fold lines located in all four quadrants thereof whereby the side panels extend upwardly from the blank bottom panel and whereby the blank bottom panel forms the container bottom and whereby the side panels form the container sides.

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion by Chadwick, II of folding the integral blank along all of the second fold lines located in all four quadrants thereof whereby the generally triangular-shaped top panels extend inwardly from the side panels over the container bottom to enclose the hollow interior and form the container top, with the container top and the container bottom being in substantial registry.

Kuhn et al is also wholly deficient as a reference, such patent not teaching the method steps set forth in detail in Claim 1 (currently amended). Kuhn et al discloses a substantially square blank of material; however, the side panels and fold lines defining same in Kuhn et al are not as set forth in Claim 1 (amended) and which allow a wide variety of decorative containers to be readily produced following a unique method and while utilizing a unique blank having double-ended first and second fold lines with ends in each blank quadrant being interconnected and the first and second fold lines in each blank quadrant being spaced from one another between the connected ends.

It is highly important in order to practice applicant's invention that the ends of the first and second fold lines interconnect at the imaginary diagonal line extending across the blank quadrant between opposed spaced junctures formed by adjoining blank outer edges at the blank quadrant boundary where the two intersecting imaginary lines meet the adjoining blank outer edges. Utilizing this feature different lengths and configurations of first and second fold lines may be utilized to provide a variety of side panel and container shapes. In Kuhn et al, the spaced lines defining the side

panels do not interconnect along an imaginary diagonal line of the type and placement precisely recited in Claim 1.

The two Beutler design patents do not teach or suggest the method recited with specificity in Claim 1 (currently amended). The container designs set forth in these patents would not have been inherently erected by the recited steps. For example, the containers set forth in the two Beutler design patents could be molded. No folding about fold lines as precisely and expressly claimed in Claim 1 need be accomplished. Furthermore, even if one were to attempt to form such container designs from a unitary blank, there is no suggestion whatsoever that the precisely formed integral blank set forth in Claim 1 (currently amended) or the steps of folding recited therein would necessarily be employed.

Claims 5 - 6, 11, 13 and 14 depend from Claim 1 (currently amended) and thus incorporate by reference all of the novel method steps set forth in such claim. It is believed that applicant is clearly entitled to the protection afforded by these dependent claims in order to round out the scope of protection for his invention, which, of course, is directed to a method which allows a wide variety of container shapes and configurations to be constructed employing essential and novel

method steps.

Claim 16 is directed to an integral, substantially quadrilateral blank of sheet material for forming a multi-panel container having a container top, a container bottom and four container sides, integrally connected together to form an enclosed hollow interior for receiving one or more objects. The comments with regard to the blank formed according to the method of Claim 1 (currently amended) have equal application to the blank now recited in detail in Claim 16 (currently amended).

The prior art references do not teach the blank structure of Claim 16 (currently amended), whether taken alone or in combination. It is through utilization of this unique blank construction that a variety of shapes and configurations of multi-panel containers may be formed.

Claim 16 as currently amended clearly satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, a clear distinction existing between the container top, bottom and sides and the panels of the blank utilized to form them.

Claims 17 - 21, 26, 28 and 29 depend from Claim 16 (currently amended) and thus incorporate by reference all of the novel structural features incorporated therein. The dependent

claims directed to the blank are submitted to be clearly patentable over the art of record.

In summary, it is believed that all claims now under consideration in the application are allowable. Passage of this case to issue is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. R. Lampe', is written over a horizontal line.

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